A Celebration of Life

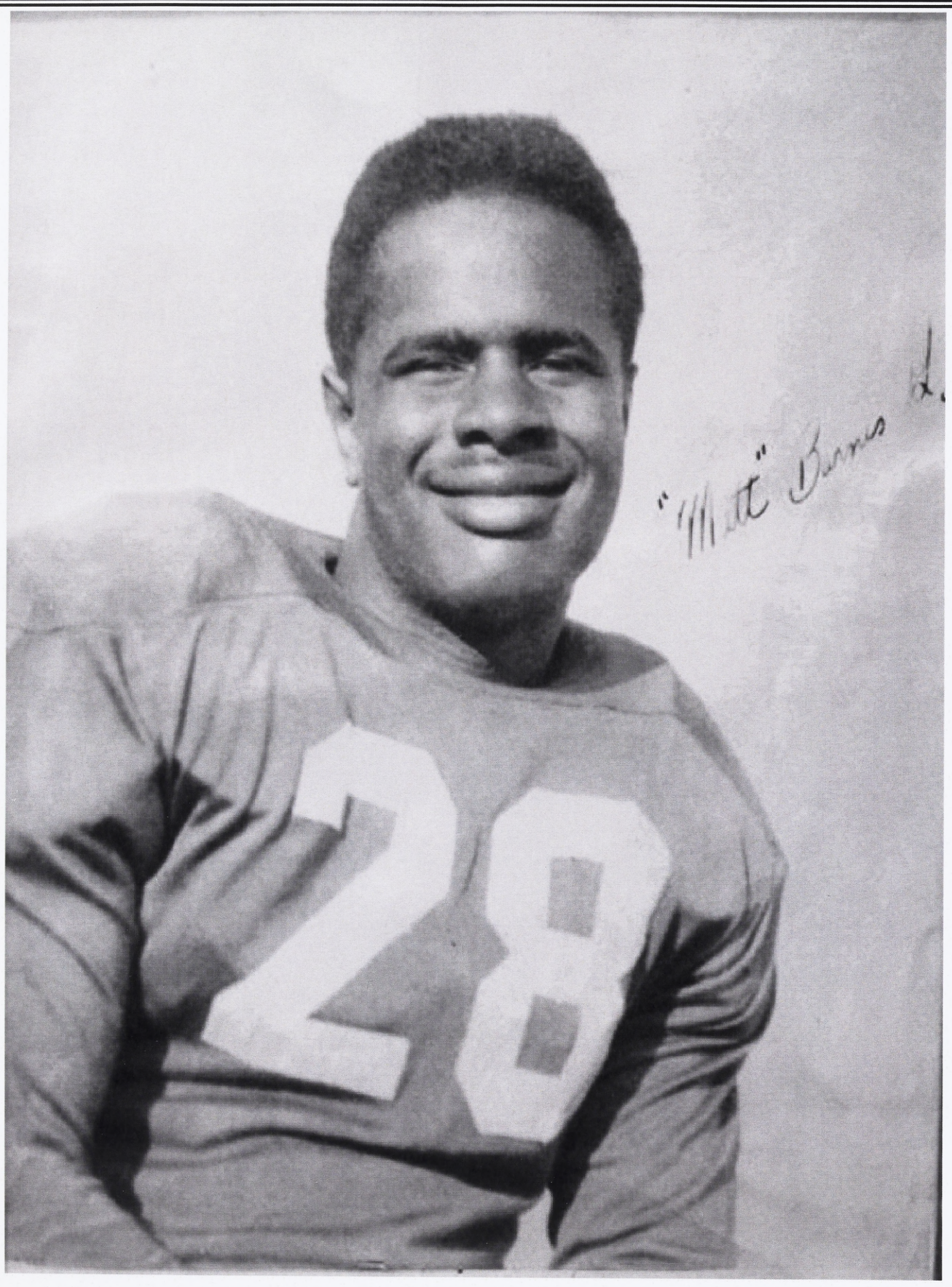
Matthew Molena Barnes Jr.

Sunrise January 28, 1933 Sunset October 4, 2015

Tuesday, October 13, 2015
11:00 am

St. Peter Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
5324 Cypress Avenue
El Cerrito, California 94530

Reverend Dr. Micheal Williams Officiating


"Matt" Barnes
28

Order of Service

Organ Prelude. ..... Cory Bridgeman

Processional.....Minsters, Stewardess, Family and Friends

Words of Assurance..... Rev. Dr. Micheal Williams

Musical Selection.....Walk With Me Lord..... Linda Wright

Affirmation of Faith ..... Congregation

Prayer..... Rev. Harold Burton
Davis Chapel C.M.E. Church

Scripture Readings.....Old Testament – Zephaniah 3: 17
Miya Lee
New Testament – Romans 8:38-39
Rev. LaSonda Robinson

Musical Selection.....I Won't Complain..... Carol Bridgeman

Family Tribute..... Ray Morris

Acknowledgements of Condolences and Resolutions..... Herlisa Hamp

Musical Selection.....How Great Thou Art..... Cory Bridgeman

Obituary Reading..... Gwendolyn E. Bolden

Eulogy..... Rev. Dr. Micheal Williams
Davis Chapel C.M.E. Church

Parting View..... Directed by Wilson & Kratzer

Recessional

Interment
Rolling Hills Memorial Park
4100 Hilltop Drive
El Sobrante, California 94803

Repast
St. Peter C.M.E. Church
J. S. Belcher Fellowship Hall
5324 Cypress Avenue – El Cerrito, California 94530

Obituary

Matthew Molena Barnes, Jr. was born to Addie Mae and Molena Barnes on January 28, 1933 in Homer, Louisiana. He was the eldest of eight siblings, two of whom, Jestine Williams and Emma Scruggs, preceded him in death. After humble beginnings on a dirt farm, the Barnes family moved to Richmond, California in 1947. Matt was joined in marriage to Clara Mae Lee on December 3, 1958. She preceded him in death in1990. One child was born from this union, Danette LaTrise Barnes.

Matt Barnes graduated from Richmond Union High School. He received his Associate Degree in Management and Supervision from Contra Costa Community College and fulfilled a four-year apprenticeship to become a machinist. Additionally, he completed extensive course studies through the University of California, Berkeley and California State University, Hayward.

Matt served two years in the US Army and retired after 23 years of service from the US Army Reserve as Master Sergeant, the Chief Instructor of a Military Driver Training School. Matt was employed at Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, California for 36-1/2 years. While working at Mare Island, he achieved two "firsts" as an African American. In 1962 he became the first African American in the 105-year history of the Mare Island Navel Shipyard to become a Foreman Machinist, and he became the first African American to become a "civilian" Ship Superintendent. Upon retirement, he held the position of program manager in charge of the shipyard's preventive maintenance program.

Matt took great pride in the fact that he was one of 21 African-American workers at the Shipyard who took an historic step on November 17, 1962, by filing a racial discrimination complaint with President John Kennedy's newly created Committee on Equal Job Opportunities. The complaint quickly led to sweeping changes locally at the shipyard and nationally at military installations. It led to early Affirmative Action-type programs. These men wanted to receive wages comparable to their white co-workers and to be treated equally. They started a chain reaction that echoed around the country. This group would become known as the "Mare Island Original 21ers", and would forever change the social landscape of the base. This courageous action was recognized and commemorated in the 109th Congressional Record of the US House of Representatives on January 4, 2006. There is now a plaque on Mare Island memorializing this lesser known but important historical event in the Civil Rights Movement.

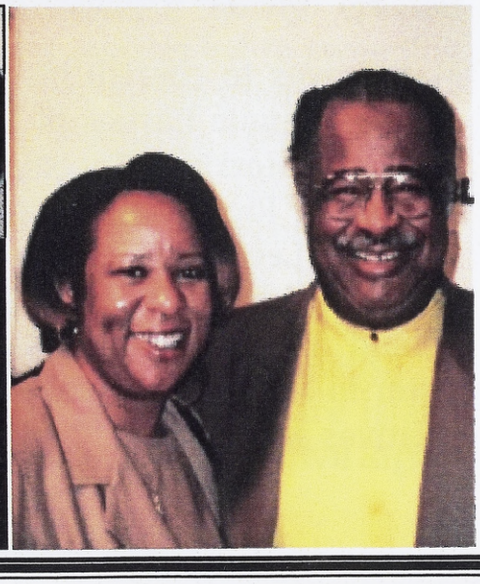
Matt Barnes was a community activist and since the 1960's worked to promote equal opportunity, full participation, and independent living for people with disabilities. As a life-time NAACP member, he held several positions ranging over a 40-year span that include: Richmond Branch President (3-terms), 1st Vice President of the Northern Area Conference (23 branches), Chairperson of Region 1 (nine Western States), and National Board of Directors Member. Additionally, he served on numerous other boards, commissions, and committees for the City of Richmond, Contra Costa County, Richmond Unified School District, and several other non-profit agencies within the community.

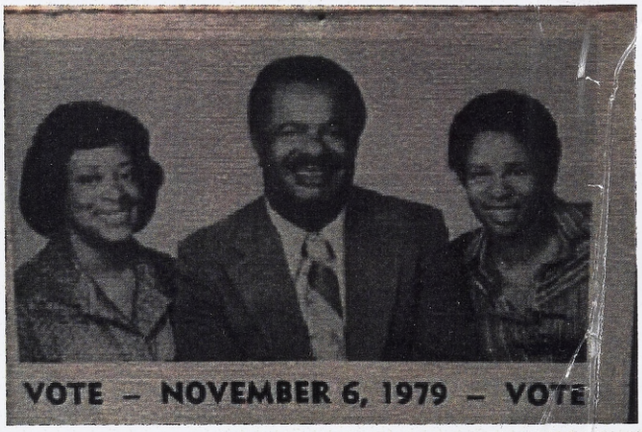
Matt was a long time member of Davis Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church where he served as Vice Chairman of the Steward Board, Vice President of the Layman's Council and member of the Church's Finance Committee. Additionally, he served and participated in the CME church in several capacities at the Local, District and Regional Conference levels.

For several years after his retirement, Matt worked as a staff member for former Assemblyman Bob Campbell in both his Richmond and Martinez offices where he worked as a community outreach person. He served on several Blue Ribbon Commissions to address child abuse, affirmative action, and police brutality.

Matt Barnes loved people and thoroughly enjoyed working in the community. Matt was a long time die-hard Oakland Raider football fan. He was a poet and wrote over fifty poems. He was an Able Toastmaster (ATM) and for several years was active at the local Toastmaster's Club. Matt loved to travel and traveled extensively throughout the United States and abroad. His family and all those who knew and loved him will miss his sense of humor, wisdom, and love.

Matt leaves to cherish his memory his daughter Danette Perry of Richmond; siblings Bennie Barnes of Los Angeles, Usef Barnes (Mary Hein) of Richmond, Jeraldene Morris of Tacoma, WA, Genera (Robert) Fryer of Oakland, and Ladell Manion of Rio Vista; In-Laws John Scruggs of Rodeo, Violet Lee of Richmond, Beatrice Lee of Rio Vista, Earline (Edward) Briggs of Acton, MA, Layzell (Patricia) Lee of Atlanta, GA; and a host of nieces and nephews. He also leaves behind a very special longtime companion Sis. Clorestine Taylor; a special sister-in-law Mary Jamieson Barnes; adopted daughter Gwendolyn Bolden; and relatives and friends.





VOTE – NOVEMBER 6, 1979 – VOTE

ELECT MATTHEW

BARNES

Richmond Unified School District Governing Board

OUR DISTRICT NEEDS LEADERSHIP WHO WILL —

- Make the education of children first priority
- Be responsive to the concerns of parents
- Be supportive of legitimate needs for teachers
- Fairly and openly assess priorities for school funds
- Be objective and rational when making policy decisions

YOUR VOTE ON NOVEMBER 6, 1979 IS THE KEY!

Friends for Barnes, 3018 Phillip Court, Richmond, California 94804

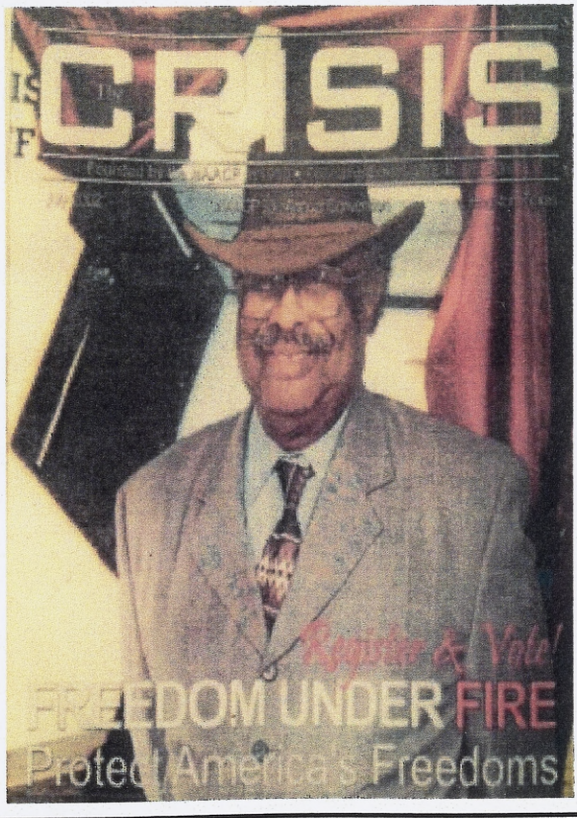
PROFILE OF MATTHEW BARNES

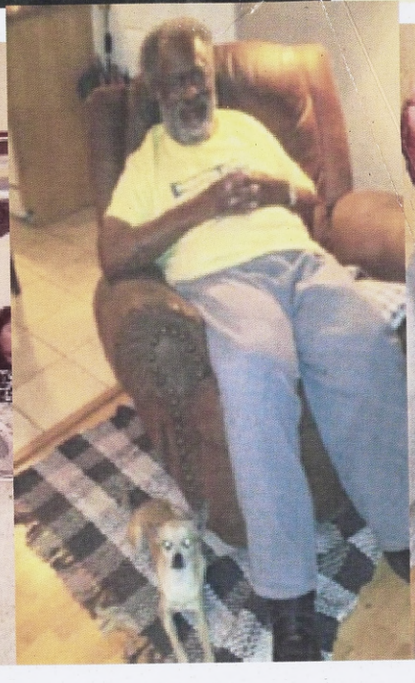
- Born in Louisiana. Graduate of Richmond Public Schools. Completed requirements for AA Degree at Contra Costa College. Numerous extension courses through UC Berkeley.
- Married 22 years. Wife Clara is a teacher in County Court Schools, formerly taught in the Richmond Schools.
- Daughter Donette, second year student at San Francisco State University, is a graduate of Richmond Schools.
- Resident of Richmond 33 years.
- Two years Chairman of Richmond Youth Services Bureau.
- Member, R.U.S.D. Ad Hoc Committee to develop Affirmative Action Program, 1975.
- Participation in School Career Development Programs.
- Observer of School Board 15 years.
- Member and Officer in Fairmeade Dad's Club 6 years.
- Two years member of speakers bureau, Richmond Human Relation Commission.
- Six years President, Richmond NAACP.
- Youth Adviser, Northern Area Conference NAACP.
- Member, Board of Directors North Richmond Neighborhood House.
- Chairman, Richmond Chief of Police Advisory Committee.
- Numerous other community activities.

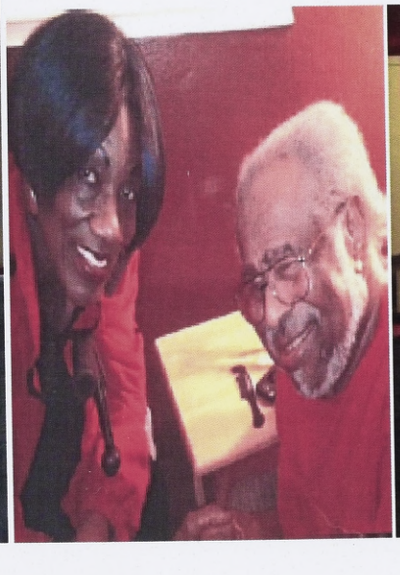
VOTE NOVEMBER 6, 1979

—I-G photo

A NOBEL PRESENTATION – Matthew Barnes left, Richmond branch NAACP president, accepts a check for $1,000 from the Young Moderns Civic and Social Club of Richmond. Half the money will be used to purchase a lifetime membership for the group, with the other half going toward the "Remember Mississippi Fund" to help defray costs of a court appeal. Also pictured are Ladell Edwards, second from left, club president; Caroline Green, secretary; and Carolyn Thams, vice-president.







THANK YOU FOR THE JOURNEY

Our Lord Jesus is the owner and operator of this old vehicle. It's been a long journey from where I started from to where I am now. Because of each of you, I wouldn't take nothing for my journey now. Some of you have been the fuel in my tank – to keep me going. Others of you have been a change of oil when needed. This old vehicle never ran "hot." You kept coolant in the radiator. My tires always got checked for air and my spare tire was ready, if needed.

As I rode along, some of you pointed out the scenic routes to take. Others of you cautioned me to stop and take advantage of rest stops along the way. Because of all of you and the goodness of "The Driver," my journey has been painless, comfortable and blessed.

Thank you, Lord, and thanks to each of you for the journey!

Matt Barnes

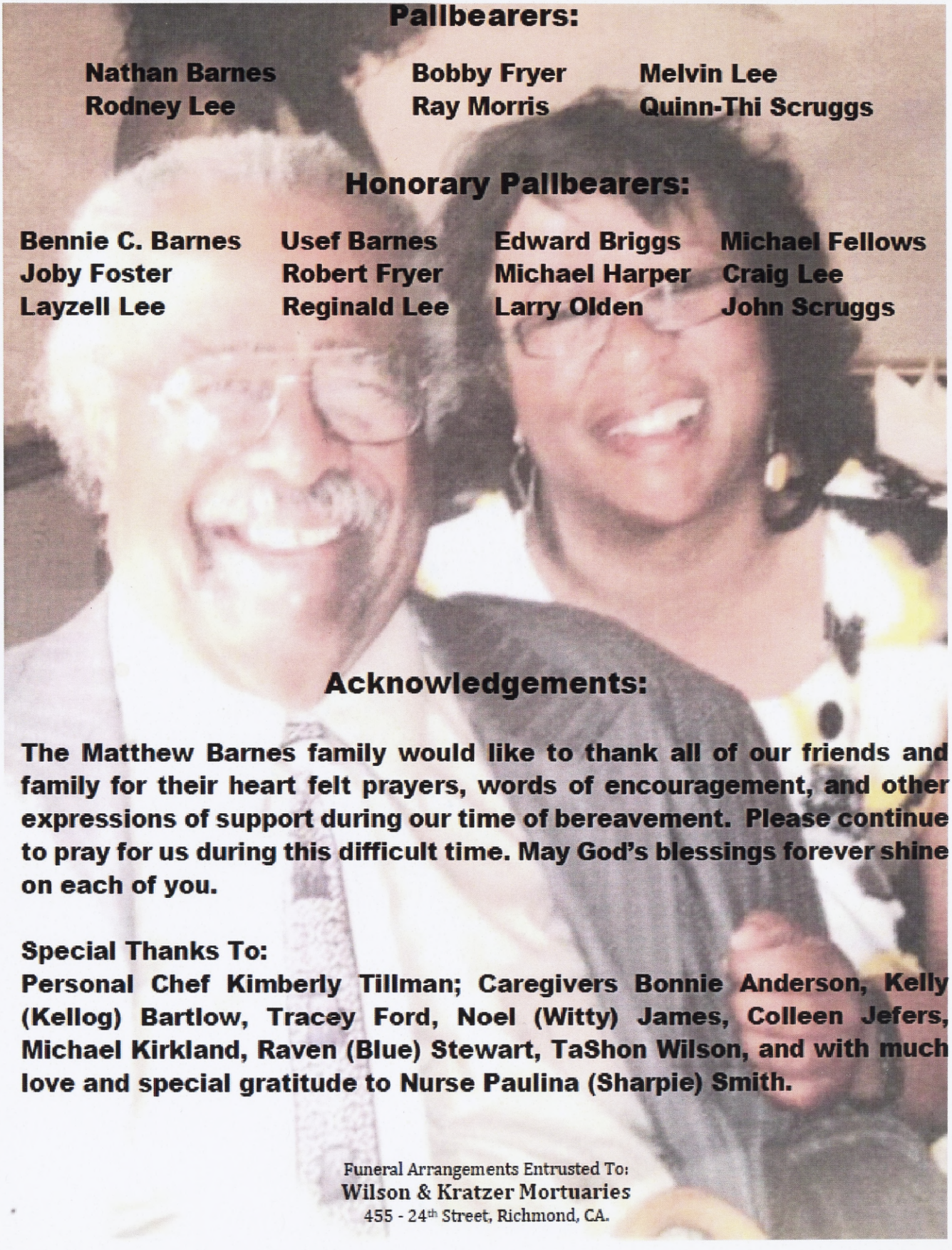
Matt Barnes

Pallbearers:

Nathan Barnes	Bobby Fryer	Melvin Lee
Rodney Lee	Ray Morris	Quinn-Thi Scruggs

Honorary Pallbearers:

Bennie C. Barnes	Usef Barnes	Edward Briggs	Michael Fellows
Joby Foster	Robert Fryer	Michael Harper	Craig Lee
Layzell Lee	Reginald Lee	Larry Olden	John Scruggs



Acknowledgements:

The Matthew Barnes family would like to thank all of our friends and family for their heart felt prayers, words of encouragement, and other expressions of support during our time of bereavement. Please continue to pray for us during this difficult time. May God's blessings forever shine on each of you.

Special Thanks To:
Personal Chef Kimberly Tillman; Caregivers Bonnie Anderson, Kelly (Kellog) Bartlow, Tracey Ford, Noel (Witty) James, Colleen Jefers, Michael Kirkland, Raven (Blue) Stewart, TaShon Wilson, and with much love and special gratitude to Nurse Paulina (Sharpie) Smith.

Funeral Arrangements Entrusted To:
Wilson & Kratzer Mortuaries
455 - 24th Street, Richmond, CA.